

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2342

E O 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV BQD UR
SUBJ: SOVIETS COMPLAIN ABOUT BERLIN TAG DER HEIMAT

SUMMARY: SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR KHOTULEV RAISED WITH
CHAIRMAN POLAD SEPTEMBER 6 SUBJECT OF ANNUAL "TAG DER
HEIMAT" TO BE HELD IN BERLIN SEPTEMBER 11, PARTICULARLY
BECAUSE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT VOGEL WILL ATTEND THE
CELEBRATION. CHAIRMAN POLAD TURNED ASIDE KHOTULEV'S
ARGUMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER COMPLETING HIS PRESENTATION ON THE REPRESENTATION
OF WEST BERLIN IN THE EC PARLIAMENT (SEPT) SOVIET
POLITICAL COUNSELOR KHOTULEV ASKED CHAIRMAN (FRENCH) POLAD
WHAT ALLIES KNEW ABOUT "TAG DER HEIMAT" RALLY TO BE HELD
IN BERLIN SEPTEMBER 11. KHOTULEV SAID HE HAD SEEN ARTICLE
IN THE SEPTEMBER 1 TAGESPIEGEL WHICH REPORTED THAT
MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF THE RHINELAND PALATINATE AND CURRENT
BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT VOGEL, WOULD GIVE A SPEECH ON THE
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OCCASION. KHOTULEV NOTED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY FELT
THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A HIGH FEDERAL PERSONAGE WOULD
GIVE THIS "REVANDIST" MEETING OFFICIAL CHARACTER WHICH
THE GATHERING HAD NOT HAD FOR MANY YEARS.

2. FRENCH POLAD SAID THAT ALLIES SAW NO REASON FOR
OPPOSING THIS MEETING SINCE IT POSED NO THREAT TO PUBLIC

ORDER AND THE PRESENCE OF A FEDERAL OFFICIAL AS THE GUEST OF A PRIVATE ASSOCIATION COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN OFFICIAL ACT CONTRADICTING THE TERMS OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

3. KHOTULEV RESPONDED THAT HE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE SUBJECT IF THE ACTIVITIES OCCURRING AT THE TAG DER HEIMAT JUSTIFIED IT.

4. THE FRENCH HERE IN BERLIN HAVE EXPRESSED SOME NERVOUSNESS ABOUT VOGEL'S DECISION TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S BERLIN TAG DER HEIMAT RALLY AND HAVE QUESTIONED WHETHER HIS DECISION TO DO SO WAS POLITICALLY JUDICIOUS. ON SEPTEMBER 7 FRENCH SENAT LIAISON OFFICER INFORMALLY RAISED SUBJECT OF TAG DER HEIMAT WITH BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN PETER LORENZ WITHOUT, HOWEVER, MAKING REFERENCE TO SOVIET COMPLAINT. LORENZ GAVE BACKGROUND OF BERLIN TAG DER HEIMAT TO ALL 3 ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS, OBSERVING IT WAS AN ANNUAL AFFAIR MARKED BY FOLK DANCING, SINGING, EATING, DRINKING AND OTHER MERRIMENT. IT IS TRADITIONAL THAT A LEADING POLITICAL FIGURE ADDRESS THE GROUP EACH YEAR. LORENZ HIMSELF HAD BEEN SPEAKER LAST YEAR. SPEECHES NORMALLY HAVE TO DO WITH CURRENT POLITICAL TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THOSE GERMANS WHO HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR EASTERN HOMELANDS, E.G. WHETHER THE POLISH SCHOOL SYSTEM PROVIDES SUFFICIENT GERMAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
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FOR ETHNIC GERMANS STILL RESIDING IN POLAND. LORENZ CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS HAVE FOR YEARS MADE PRO FORMA PROTESTS ABOUT "REVANCHIST" CHARACTER OF THIS GATHERING, A PROTEST WHICH HAS USUALLY BEEN IGNORED AS HAVING LITTLE OR NO FOUNDATION.

5. WE BELIEVE FRENCH POLAD'S ON THE SPOT RESPONSE TO KHOTULEV IS SUFFICIENT AND MATTER SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED. WE PARTICULARLY SEE NO POINT IN GETTING INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION WHETHER MINISTER-PRESIDENT VOGEL SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BERLIN TAG DER HEIMAT. THIS IS AN INTERNAL MATTER, AND VOGEL IS APPEARING IN BERLIN IN A NON-OFFICIAL CAPACITY BEFORE A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION AT A FESTIVAL WHICH HAS BEEN HELD FOR YEARS WITHOUT ANY DISTURBANCES TO PUBLIC ORDER. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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